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Diana T Fritz 03/21/2007 11:29:28 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

August 27, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 3930 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WEST BANK IRAQ
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03930

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL DCM AMB
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ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI850
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #3930 2390851
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 270851Z AUG 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1448
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0703
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0747
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WEST BANK IRAQ

¶1. SUMMARY: THE UAE VISIT OF FAROUQ AL SHARA, FOREIGN MINISTER OF SYRIA, AND EVENTS IN IRAQ AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. AN "AL

BAYAN" EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON THE "BRAVE" FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT THE FAMILIES OF US SOLDIERS IN IRAQ ARE PRESSURING PRESIDENT BUSH TO BRING THE TROOPS HOME. IN "AL ITTIHAD," DR. SHAMLAN AL EISSA ASKS, "WHO WILL SAVE IRAQ?" END SUMMARY.

12. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAROUK AL SHARA ARRIVED IN THE UAE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27. ALL UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERED HIS OFFICIAL VISIT WITH SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE AND DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE UAE ARMED FORCES. ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES REPRINTED THE EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM) OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE, WHICH DID NOT QUOTE FM AL SHARA DIRECTLY. THE WAM RELEASE NOTED THAT FM AL SHARA AND SHEIKH KHALIFA DISCUSSED "CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PALESTINE AND IRAQ," "PROPOSALS TO REVAMP THE ARAB LEAGUE," THE "SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN TERRITORIES," AND "BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UAE."

13. COMMENTING ON THE "BRAVE FRENCH ATTITUDE" TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 8/26:

"... THE DISTORTED ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. MEDIA TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN EUROPE - WHICH WE SHOULD USE TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSES - AND THE BRAVE FRENCH ATTITUDE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRENCH, AT THE ADMISSION OF ISRAELI SOURCES, REFUSE TAKING ANY STANCE AGAINST THE TWO ISLAMIC PARTIES, HAMAS AND JIHAD. THE FRENCH ALSO REFUSE TO TAKE POSITION AGAINST PRESIDENT YASER ARAFAT. THIS LEAD SOME ISRAELI SOURCES TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH STAND GIVES THEM THE CHILLS! THE FRENCH STAND IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ARAB STAND. BOTH NEED SUPPORT IN ORDER FOR OUR CAUSES TO BE SUPPORTED INTERNATIONALLY. SHOULDN'T WE START MOVING TO ACHIEVE THIS SUPPORT IN ORDER TO AMEND OUR IMAGE FOR WORLD PUBLIC OPINION?"

14. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "THE PRICE OF OCCUPATION," SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 8/27:

"... WITH MORE U.S. SOLDIERS BEING KILLED IN OCCUPIED IRAQ, THE VOICES OF THE FAMILIES OF THE SOLDIERS REQUEST THAT THEIR CHILDREN BE BROUGHT BACK ... IT IS NOT EASY TO OVERCOME WASHINGTON'S DILEMMA IN OCCUPIED IRAQ, WHICH INCREASES THE DECLINE OF BUSH'S POPULARITY IN HIS COUNTRY, AND THIS DECREASE WILL INCREASE WHILE THE FAMILIES OF U.S. SOLDIERS FEEL THAT THEIR PRESIDENT SENT THEIR CHILDREN TO DANGER FOR ISRAEL'S SAKE FIRST, AND SECONDLY FOR HIS OWN SAKE AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S SAKE IN ORDER THAT HE REMAINS IN THE WHITE HOUSE."

14. UNDER THE HEADLINE "WHO WILL SAVE IRAQ?," DR. SHAMLAN AL EISSA WROTE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" ON 8/27:

"... THESE BLOODY CONFLICTS IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF IRAQ RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF IRAQ'S STABILITY. COULD SECURITY AND STABILITY BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE FOREIGN EXISTENCE? WHAT ARE THE POWERS THAT COULD GUARANTEE INTERNAL SECURITY AND STABILITY? IS THERE A POWER OTHER THAN THE COALITION THAT COULD STOP THE CONFLICTS AND ESTABLISH SECURITY? ... THE COALITION FORCES MADE MANY MISTAKES WHEN THEY ENTERED IRAQ, THIS IS NOT DENIABLE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT (THE COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY) NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL POWERS AND PARTIES IN ORDER TO GOVERN IRAQ AND ESTABLISH SECURITY AND STABILITY. IRAQ'S PROBLEM TODAY IS NOT THE CONFLICTS BUT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT HAVE STARTED USING VIOLENCE, TERRORISM, AND THE LANGUAGE OF BULLETS AND ASSASSINATIONS INSTEAD OF DEMOCRACY, FORGIVENESS, BROTHERHOOD, AND NATIONAL UNITY."

ALBRIGHT